

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**December 20, 2001**  
**2:00 PM**  
**Room 433, Blatt Building**

**Members Present:** Mr. Barnet, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mrs. Hoag, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. McTeer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Staton, Mrs. Tenenbaum, Mrs. Thompson, Representative Townsend, Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting and thanked them for making a special effort during the holiday season.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the October 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

Mr. Barnet asked that the EIA report be presented first.

- A. **EIA and Improvement Mechanisms:** Mr. Staton reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He detailed the responsibilities of the EOC regarding budget recommendations, the process used by the Subcommittee and the establishment of two priorities. The priorities are technical assistance for schools rated Unsatisfactory and Below Average on the absolute performance measure and quality teaching. The Subcommittee report recommended increasing technical assistance funding by \$23.3 million, funding teacher salaries at the Southeastern average and increasing funds to pay the incentives for teachers earning National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification. The report included a proviso regarding minimum district tax effort. The EOC members discussed the proposal at length, particularly the proviso on local effort. Mrs. Tenenbaum outlined the impact of budget reductions on schools and the use of technical assistance funds. Mr. Barnet proposed dividing the question to isolate the local effort proviso from the rest of the report. Members accepted that proposal. Rep. Townsend moved that the EOC adjourn debate on the report and reconsider it in January. The motion was defeated. The EOC approved the Subcommittee recommendations on allocation of funds and provisos other than the local effort proviso. The EOC approved the local effort proviso.
- B. **Academic Standards and Assessments:** Mr. Wilson shared information on the performance of states on multiple achievement measures. He pointed out the similarities of demographics and education expenditures among Kentucky, Oklahoma, Texas and South Carolina but the differences in achievement. He also shared a listing of districts by poverty index and performance.
- C. **Parental Involvement:** Mrs. Thompson reported that the pilot survey was administered in December. Results and the refinement of the final survey should be available in winter 2002.

- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith deferred the report on media coverage and the report card. He shared preliminary results of the leader survey and indicated a fuller report would be available in January.
- E. Staff and Administration: Dr. Anderson outlined the review process for the report card.

Mr. Barnett opened the floor for nominations for chairman. Mr. Smith nominated Mr. Staton; Mr. Wilson seconded the nomination. Repot Townsend moved that Mr. Staton be elected by acclamation; Senator Matthews seconded. The EOC elected Mr. Staton chairman be acclamation.

IV. **Report from a Key Constituency**

Mr. Barnett introduced Mr. Len Bornemann from the Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Bornemann presented a very brief outline of the community's use of the HOSTS program. He indicated that the Chamber now has 1451 mentors in elementary schools every week helping 325 children learn to read. This is part of the Chamber's coordinated effort to (1) have every child on grade level by grade four; (2) reduce the dropout rate and (3) create a competitive workforce.

V. **Report on the Class Size Study**

The report was deferred to the January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.